

## NEWS

# Midway Shortline Celebrates 40 Years

*Then . . .*



Wave photos courtesy of Dick Thiriot

**Above:** Midway Shortline Railroad Engineer Dick Thiriot operates the original miniature train that debuted in 1963. The little train has been delighting children for almost 40 years. The Shortline opens its fortieth season this Saturday, May 24. Below: Thiriot and his daughter, Carlie Thiriot in 2003. Thiriot said his daughter has been a big support to him keeping the railroad chugging along.

**MIDWAY** – In April of 1963, Dick Thiriot and Dick Freed began laying 1000 feet of 12 pound mine rail for a 12 inch gauge miniature railroad. Arrangements were made to locate the railroad in an orchard at the South end of the original Pioneer Village Museum in Salt Lake.

An old 1900 vintage 12 inch gauge steam locomotive, in pieces, was located on its way to the junk yard. Dick Thiriot hauled it to Dick Freed's garage where he had a small machine shop. Freed was a machinist by trade and was an avid steam train buff as was Thiriot. Freed began to put the locomotive back together. The parts he couldn't find or were worn out he made.

Thiriot, with the help of his friend Karl Schleckman, began to build two gondolas and a caboose. In about two and a half months the locomotive and three cars were ready to run on the 1000 feet of track they had laid.

For the next several years hundred of children and many adults rode the train on Saturdays and holidays.

In 1963 Thiriot purchased 5 acres of pasture land 1/2 mile North of the Homestead Resort and had a summer home built. He



knew the train would have to move sometime.

In 1970 a subdivision was scheduled for the orchard and railroad was moved to Midway and became the Midway Shortline Railroad. It has operated Saturdays, holidays and special occasions for 33 years. Now several thousand passengers have ridden.

Additions were made to the railroad. It has a live steam engine and a diesel locomotive as well as 14 cars. The track is now 2000 feet long.

The train operates every Saturday afternoon 12 Noon to 4:30 p.m. May through September, weather permitting. No charge is made to ride but donations are really appreciated to help defray upkeep costs.

## AROUND THE COUNTY

## Up, Up and Away With The Senior Citizens

Seniors Center, 90 North 100 West - 654-4920  
 Stephen Mahoney, Director  
 Flossie Carlile, Executive Assistant

## Meals Menu

Thursday, May 22: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed veg., peaches, roll and butter, parfait and milk.

Friday, May 23: Cod filet, baked potato and sour cream, corn, coleslaw, roll and butter, cookie and milk.

Monday, May 26: CENTER CLOSED and NO MEALS ON WHEELS.

Tuesday, May 27: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, pears, roll and butter, carrot cake and milk.

Wednesday, May 28: Barbecue beef, tater babies, sliced tomato, green salad, roll and butter, peach cobbler and milk.

## Meals are Subject to Change.

These meals are funded by Mountainland Association of Governments and the State of Utah.

## Recent Programs

OLD-TIME MOVIE SHOW: We had 20 seniors at the movie show last Tuesday. Watched "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" with Fred MacMurray. Good popcorn and drinks. In the month of April, we had 25 seniors and watched "Penny Serenade" with Gary Grant and Irene Dunn. We will announce our June movie soon.

## Monthly Dinner/Program

On Thursday, May 15, we had 89 in attendance for a delicious dinner and a wonderful program. A Senior Citizens band of nine ladies (ages 60 to 92) from Draper, called the "Golden Oldies," performed for us. They were terrific. A lot of fun, toetapping and sing-along.

## Monthly Get-away

The "Thursday Get-Away" will be held tomorrow, May 22, at 10:30 a.m. Our guest speakers will be Karl and Elaine North who recently returned from the Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mission. While in Mongolia, they taught under the EFL program ("teaching English as a Foreign Language"). They also taught the local people how to run a branch of the LDS Church. For nine months, they set up a vocational school where they taught different vocations.

Come and go on this educational trip to Mongolia with us. Karl is a retired educator from Wasatch High School. Elaine, in addition to being a homemaker, runs a carpet business with Karl. They are to parents of eight children.



## Yellowstone, Grant Tetons, Jackson Hole Bus Tour

We are announcing a trip with Care Free Tours for Wasatch Senior Citizens and friends. A brochure is available at the Senior Center. Some highlights: Stay in West Yellowstone 2 nights, Continental breakfasts included, West Yellowstone IMAX theater first night and Playmill stage show second night (both shows included in price), tour in Yellowstone 2 days, go to Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Lake Lodge, Jenny Lake Lodge, be fed and entertained at the Bar-J Wranglers Ranch (meal and show included in tour price), overnight in Jackson Hole. Then to Star Valley, Montpelier (lunch), Bear Lake, then home. Dates are July 7-10, Monday-Thursday (4 days, 3 nights). Priced \$429 per person, double occupancy (remember that some meals and 3 shows included in this price) Triple occupancy is \$384 and single is \$591.

We would like to receive your indications of interest soon. We hope to fill the bus with about 50 seniors on this tour. The minimum number required is 43. Contact Stephen or Flossie at the Center for more information.

## Membership Drive

At our last Board meeting, approval was given to promote a Membership Drive during the months of May and June. We invite all of you to join with us in this special effort to greatly increase the number of seniors (1) who pay membership dues, (2) who will participate with us in our various activities, and (3) who would like to volunteer to serve on some of our committees.

(Participation in our activities and services are open to everyone 55 years of age and older, regardless of whether or not dues are paid. Our meals programs are for those 60 and older.)

For this special drive, we will lower the dues to \$4 for the remainder of the year.

We will have available for everyone a 1-page promotional and informational handout to assist you in explaining to others, or understanding yourself, what we use the dues for, the benefits of being a dues-paying member, what kinds of activities we have, etc.

## Increase in Suggested Contribution For Meals

At the monthly Mountainland Association of Governments, Division of Aging Advisory Council meetings for March and April, the issue of rising meal costs in rural areas (this includes Wasatch and Summit Counties) was on the agenda for discussion.

To assist Wasatch and Summit Counties, a motion was made and voted on unanimously, to increase the "Suggested Contribution" for "Meals on Wheels" to \$2.50 and for "Congregate Meals" to \$2.25. This will increase the cost of a meal to

## Just Stu

Monday is Memorial Day. Uncle Sam, that means we have a weekend; time to kick off spring and the sun with an added day to play.

But it's more than just a long weekend. Traditionally, Memorial Day is the day we pay homage to those we have passed away, a time to remember dearly departed loved ones.

Decoration Day, as Grandma always called it, was that, the day to decorate the graves. With the white metal baskets with fragrant flowers and ribbons tucked carefully on the back of the car, off to the cemetery.

It was a sad day for Grandpa, who remembered a daughter, a son, a husband, who all preceded him. With many friends she had known, it was a happy day, too.

## Bus Driv

## State of Ut



Charlotte Keller

The Wasatch Classified Employees Association placed a memorial plaque in honor of Charlotte Keller, who passed away on May 10, 2003. The plaque is located in the lobby of the Wasatch Classified Employees Association building.